



## EPA Yucca Mountain Fact Sheet #3

# How to Get Information and Comment on the Proposed Amendments to EPA's Public Health and Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada

In July 2004, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the compliance period of 10,000 years in the 2001 EPA standards was inconsistent with the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which stated that the compliance period should cover the time of peak dose. According to NAS, peak dose might occur several hundred thousand years into the future. EPA is revising the Yucca Mountain standard to extend the compliance period to one million years.

EPA's proposed changes were published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2005 (70 FR 49014). EPA will consider public comments on the proposed changes to guide the development of the final revised standards. A 60-day public comment period will run through November 21, 2005.

### Ways to Comment

#### 1. To submit comments electronically:

- Visit the Federal e-Rulemaking web site: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and perform a keyword search for "yucca," then read the full instructions for commenting, click on "Submit a Comment on this Regulation," and then scroll down and type your comments in the form provided; or
- E-mail comments to: [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov) and specify "to the attention of Docket ID No. OAR-2005-0083."

#### 2. Send comments by surface mail to:

EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)  
Air and Radiation Docket  
Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA West, Mail Code 6102T  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460  
Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2005-0083

#### 3. Send comments by fax to:

202-566-1741  
Attention: Docket ID. No. OAR-2005-0083

#### 4. Deliver comments by courier or in person to:

Air and Radiation Docket  
EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC)  
EPA West, Room B102  
1301 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC  
Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2005-0083.

#### 5. Make comments during public meetings and hearings:

The EPA will be holding public meetings on the recently proposed amendments to the Public Health and Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Meetings will be held in Amargosa Valley, Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, and in Washington, D.C. See below for instructions on how to comment at a public hearing

The schedule is as follows:

#### AMARGOSA VALLEY

**Monday, October 3, 2005** 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Amargosa Valley Community Center

821 East Farm Road, Amargosa Valley, NV

- Information Session 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
- Roundtable Dialogue Session 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- Public Hearing 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

#### LAS VEGAS

The Cashman Center, Rooms 203-206

850 North Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV

**Tuesday, October 4, 2005** 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

- Information Session 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
- Roundtable Dialogue Session 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- Public Hearing 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Wednesday, October 5, 2005** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Information Session 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- Public Hearing 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Thursday, October 6, 2005** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Information Session 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- Public Hearing 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Tuesday, October 11, 2005** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

EPA East Building, Room 1153

1201 Constitution Avenue, NW

- Information Session 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- Public Hearing 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Please use the Constitution Ave. entrance and bring a photo ID.*

## Meeting Formats

The meetings will provide opportunities for both informal exchanges of information and formal comments. These will include:

- **Information Sessions:** an informal opportunity to learn about the standards, meet EPA staff, ask questions, and provide comments on the record in writing or on audio tape.
- **Roundtable Dialogues:** a group conversation with EPA staff to discuss the standards and allow opportunities for the public to ask questions of EPA staff, and for EPA to respond. A summary of key points and questions will be recorded for the record.
- **Public Hearings:** a formal opportunity to make verbal statements that will be recorded for the public record. In order to allow for the maximum number of comments, individuals and organizations should schedule a specific time to make their comments.

## Commenting At A Formal Hearing

Individuals and organizations will be able to schedule times to comment at the public hearings by calling EPA's toll-free Yucca Mountain Information Line at 1-800-331-9477. Please leave a message with your name and organizational affiliation (if any), hearing date, location, time(s) available to comment, and a daytime telephone number.

In order to obtain a scheduled speaking time, requests must be received by EPA no later than September 30, 2005 for the hearings in Amargosa Valley and Las Vegas, Nevada; and October 7, 2005 for the hearing in Washington, DC. Individuals who do not schedule in advance will need to wait for an available time at the hearing. Individuals commenting on their own behalf will be allowed five minutes. One individual may comment as the official representative or spokesperson on behalf of groups and organizations and will be allocated ten minutes for an oral presentation.

Individuals can also provide recorded spoken comments or written comments at individual comment stations at any of the public events. Participants do not have to register in order to participate in the Information Sessions or Roundtable Dialogues, only for the Public Hearings.

## Tips for Preparing Your Comments

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline.
8. Respond to specific questions from the Agency.
9. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the Docket Identification Number (OAR-2005-0083) in the subject line on the first page of your response.

## How EPA Will Consider Your Comments

The EPA will consider all comments received in the development of a final rule and will prepare and publish a response to all comments received.

## For More Information

- Visit the EPA Yucca Mountain website <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca/about.htm>
- Call the toll-free Yucca Mountain Information Line at 1-800-331-9477
- View the information files available at EPA meetings and at Nevada locations:
  - o The government documents section located at the 2nd floor service desk at Lied Library at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 4504 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV, (702) 895-2200, and
  - o The Amargosa Valley Community Library, 829 E. Farm Road, Amargosa Valley, NV, (775) 372-5340
- Subscribe to Yucca-Updates, an e-mail alert that will send information directly to your e-mail. To subscribe, visit [www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca/up-to-date.htm](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca/up-to-date.htm), click on "Yucca Updates Listserv," and follow the directions.